



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

SORCERER'S APPRENTICE:

My Life with Carlos Castaneda by Amy Wallace

Frog Ltd/North Atlantic Books, USA, 2003
ISBN 0-58394-076-6 (421pp hc)
Availability: North Atlantic Books,
<http://www.northatlanticbooks.com>

The spiritual teachings of Yaqui Indian sorcerer don Juan, as told by his apprentice Carlos Castaneda, captured the attention of a generation of people who wanted to explore life's magic and mysteries. It didn't seem to matter too much whether don Juan actually existed or whether he was the figment of Castaneda's lively imagination.

Author Amy Wallace (daughter of best-selling novelist Irving Wallace) was among the adoring fans, and met Castaneda through her father in 1973 when she was seventeen. Their acquaintanceship continued over the years until she was finally drawn into the inner circle of his devotees in the early 1990s and became one of his lovers until a year before his death in 1998.

Sorcerer's Apprentice is Wallace's roller-coaster memoir of her life with (and after) Castaneda and the "witches" who made up his coterie, and it's not quite the tale of "impeccability" and "enlightenment" that might be expected. It's a warts-and-all account that takes the reader through the heights and depths of being in an unequal power relationship with a brilliant but flawed guru/philosopher who could be cruel and kind, abusive and loving, fraudulent and brutally frank. It's a morality tale that on the one hand is about the spiritual quest but on

the other is about jealousy, self-obsession and hypocrisy. Writing it was her way of settling the past and moving on in her life.

Wallace realised an important lesson that is applicable to us all: be true to our own power, and don't put others up on a pedestal and then submit to their manipulations.

AYAHUASCA: The Visionary & Healing Powers of the Vine of the Soul by Joan Parisi Wilcox

Park Street Press, USA, 2003
ISBN 0-89281-131-5 (229pp tpb)
Availability: Inner Traditions website,
<http://www.innertraditions.com>

Experiencing the sacred Amazonian plant brew, *ayahuasca*, has become a popular pursuit among "underground" spiritual seekers, and this ancient sacred practice is indeed legal in its native Amazonia. This powerful, visionary concoction is not something that should be taken lightly; emetic episodes are often part of ingesting this potent biochemical drug, compounded by the effects of a DMT-rich catalyst plant that acts like a light to the power of ayahuasca.

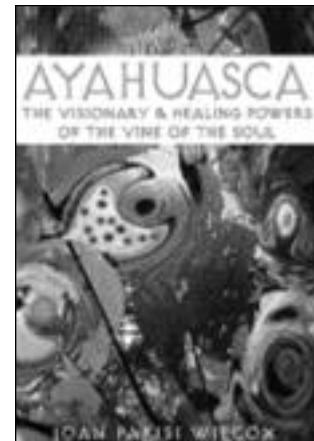
Author Joan Parisi Wilcox warns this tea should only be ingested under strict ritual conditions, overseen by an *ayahuasquero*, or healing master, who sings/plays the sacred songs, *icaros*, during the process. Anyone contemplating exploring this route must be sure of his/her intentions and not get stuck on psychic phenomena that may be part of the process. When experimenting with such a mind-expanding psychedelic as this, the explorer still needs to be grounded.

A former English literature academic and a professional writer, she is no stranger to shamanic traditions. Readers may remember her book, *Keepers of the Ancient*

Knowledge, about the Q'ero tribe of the Peruvian Andes (see review in 6/03).

Her introduction to plants with psychedelic qualities came in the USA in 2000, when she imbibed ayahuasca tea under ritual conditions. The protocols in the week leading up to the ritual were strict for good reasons, and included eating a very plain vegetarian diet and abstaining from sex. What Joan experienced with this "entheogen" was not just literally gut-wrenching but mind-blowing, to say the least. Ultimately, through this and other subsequent experiences in Amazonia, she got to the core of her deepest being, dispelling illusions and becoming one with the Vine of the Soul—a plant that is, in reality, a highly sentient being.

Wilcox's book is a record of her and her fellow travellers' visionary journeys and insights. The shamans would concur that if one is privileged enough to be able to tap into hidden experiential knowledge, there is a responsibility to share it around. Wilcox has fulfilled her mission admirably.



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THE BOOK OF FLOATING:

Exploring the Private Sea

by Michael Hutchison

Gateways Books and Tapes, Nevada City, CA, USA, 1984, 2003

ISBN 0-89556-118-2 (268pp tpb)

Availability: Gateways Books and Tapes, <http://www.gatewaysbooksandtapes.com>

Michael Hutchison did his first series of floats in a flotation tank in 1982 for an article he was writing for New York's *Village Voice* (13 July). Like so many others of his generation, he'd been inspired by Dr John Lilly's books and the film *Altered States*—and curiosity got the better of him.

Hutchison was so taken by the benefits of floating and encouraged by the testimony of other floaters that he spent a year researching the subject from scientific, medical and psychological perspectives, culminating in the 1984 publication of *The Book of Floating*. (During the 1990s he edited the seminal *MegaBrain Report*.) Two decades later, Hutchison's work is still relevant in his explanations of how flotation works, e.g., via brain waves, biochemistry, biofeedback, visualisation, and how floating can be used, e.g., for deep relaxation, pain relief, self-hypnosis, superlearning, improvement of athletic performance, weight loss and freeing oneself from habits and addictions.

The book has been reprinted but with a final chapter which Hutchison wrote in 2003—four years after he had a terrible fall that left him paralysed from the neck down. After a few months of hospitalisation he decided the only thing to help him through his ordeal was to enter into deep meditation, so before long he found he could get into the same state of "no mind" that he experienced in his most profound floating moments.

Now on the mend, he attests to a power of floatation that he'd not contemplated before—as a gateway to pure awareness, pure being, enlightenment, the eternal present, just as the spiritual sages describe.

Hutchison's story gives incentive to new recruits as well as lapsed floaters to get into the tank and go with the flow.

GENESIS OF THE COSMOS:

The Ancient Science of Continuous Creation

by Paul A. LaViolette, PhD

Bear & Company, USA, 2004 (first published in 1995 by Park Street Press as

Beyond the Big Bang)

ISBN 1-59143-034-8 (373pp tpb)

Availability: Inner Traditions website, <http://www.innertraditions.com>

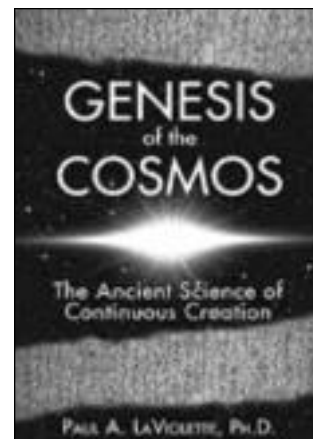
Dr Paul LaViolette is one of those rare scientists who dares to move across disciplines and make connections that others don't see so easily. After graduating in physics and systems science, he spent the subsequent years conducting research in astronomy, climatology, cosmology, geology, mythology and theoretical physics, among other subjects. He's written many papers touching on these fields, and several books including *Earth Under Fire* (1997) and *The Talk of the Galaxy* (2000) (see reviews in 5/02 and 8/02, plus article, "A Galactic Superwave Hazard Alert", in 8/02).

This edition is a re-issue of his 1995 *Beyond the Big Bang*, published a year after his *Subquantum Kinetics*—a new approach to subatomic physics based on chemistry, not mechanics, and process rather than static structure. While LaViolette was developing his theory in the 1970s, he came across the

Tarot and had the insight that it described the science of system genesis—the process by which ordered forms or systems spring into being—and was amazed to learn that modern systems principles were known thousands of years ago. *Genesis of the Cosmos* (and its predecessor) is his bringing together of ancient scientific wisdom that has been hidden in myths and folklore.

LaViolette says that the creation science of antiquity conceives all physical form (whether animate or inanimate) to be sustained by an undercurrent of process—a flux of vital energy that permeates all space.

He suggests that ancient systems of knowledge, including the *I Ching*, the Sumerian and Egyptian mysteries, the Tarot and astrology, encode a highly sophisticated science of cosmogenesis, though he concedes that not all traditions have the same degree of detail. Our 21st century cosmology can only advance by a paradigm change that involves reanimating this ancient knowledge, he argues in this cutting-edge classic.





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CROP CIRCLES:

Evidence of a Cover-up by Nicolas Montigiani

Carnot, USA, 2003 (first published in French as *Crop Circles, Manoeuvres dans le ciel*, Editions Carnot, Chatou, France) ISBN 1-4050-4103-X (197pp tpb)
Availability: **USA**—Carnot USA Books, <http://www.carnotbooks.com>; **UK**—Roundhouse Group, website <http://www.roundhouse.net>

French-American professional photographer Nicolas Montigiani proposes a very different theory on the formation of crop circles in this book. Before getting to the point, he succinctly reviews the history of cerealogy, the rise of cult, ufological and New Age groups as well as hoaxers, and the serious attempts made by independent researchers and scientists to analyse the phenomenon, e.g., studying the broken nodes of wheat stems. He dismisses hypotheses concerning hoaxers (except in a small percentage of cases), cosmic intervention, plasma vortex energies and Earth energy lines.

Instead, Montigiani's conclusion is based on the research of a French defence scientist (who uses the pseudonym, Jean-Paul Piton) that crop pictograms are the work of a secret British (and possibly joint US) military defence program—utilising a high-powered microwave (HPM) generator and cannon to direct the invisible energy beam to the field below according to pre-programmed instructions for the design. A balloon or dirigible could serve as a platform for reflecting the beam or producing it via an on-board generator. In his experiments, Piton directed laser beams and microwaves at ripening wheat and was able to duplicate the effects seen in crop circles using the microwaves.

Montigiani notes that HPM technology has been an open secret for decades, but suggests the British may have made significant advances with it that coincided with the increasing sophistication of the pictogram designs around 1990. It may be no coincidence that the majority of circles appear near military bases in the UK and, on a lesser scale, in allied countries.

This is another far-out approach that's sure to disturb not just the cosmically inclined.

PRIMARY PERCEPTION: Biocommunication with Plants, Living Foods and Human Cells by Cleve Backster

White Rose Millennium Press, Anza, CA
USA, 2003

ISBN 0-9664354-3-5 (168pp tpb)

Availability: Websites <http://www.primaryperception.com>; Amazon.com

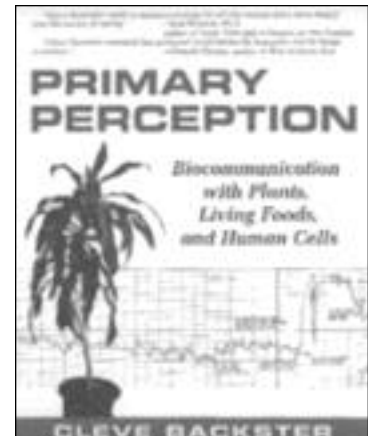
If you read *The Secret Life of Plants* (by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird) years ago, you may remember the opening story of Cleve Backster, who first attached a set of polygraph electrodes to a plant leaf in 1966 and thus initiated a revolution in our understanding of biocommunication.

Mr Backster is still going strong, and so is the *Dracaena* plant he tested all those years ago. So is his work in lie detection, and he still teaches at the school he founded in the early 1960s. At last, he's written his first book. It touches on his life story, and details many of his landmark experiments up to as recently as 2002. While he's had such an influence on our changing scientific paradigm, there's been all too little written about him and he remains an unsung hero—which is why we're running a rare interview this issue, conducted in 1997 by well-known

environment journalist Derrick Jensen.

Four years in the writing (due to new developments in the process), *Primary Perception* documents Backster's amazing discoveries of attunement in the cellular, microbial, plant and animal kingdoms to stimuli from humans and the surrounding environment. Who would think that a kom-bucha culture could react by going "off the chart" when Backster (briefly a CIA agent in the late 1940s and a hypnotist before that) was viewing a scene from the film *Conspiracy Theory* that alluded to CIA experiments in hallucinogens and sensory deprivation? After this, you'll never feel the same way again about the eggs, yogurt, acidophilus capsules and fresh fruit and vegetables held captive in your fridge, and you may be forced to reassess the "vibes" you give out in your everyday life.

Backster's pioneering biocommunication experiments are also adding to the evidence that confirms the advanced level of scientific knowledge and wisdom of the ancients.



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THE HOLISTIC HANDBOOK OF SAUNA THERAPY

by Nenah Sylver, PhD

The Center for Frequency, NY, USA, 2004
ISBN 0-9672491-7-1 (337pp tpb)
Availability: The Center for Frequency,
PO Box 952, Stone Ridge, NY 12484-
0952, tel +1 (845) 687 0963, website
<http://www.NenahSylver.com>

I hadn't realised the healing power of the sauna until I came across Nenah Sylver's handbook. Sauna therapy has been practised for thousands of years (a Mayan sweat house that's 3,000 years old was discovered a few years back), and for good reason. This therapeutic body-heating technique works up a sweat that helps eliminate toxins from the system. It also helps maintain good health and prevent onset of disease.

Sauna therapy has a strong cultural following in Europe, particularly in Scandinavia, and Sylver aims to win over those who aren't familiar with it or have some aversion to perspiration or nudity. (Dr Sylver is also the author of *The Handbook of Rife Therapy*, reviewed in 9/05, and the article on "Poisonous Products" which we ran in 7/02-03 under the name Nina Silver.)

Starting off with a look at the history of the sauna, Dr Sylver then explains the physiology of perspiration, how deliberate sweating can produce powerful results, and what sorts of compounds—biological wastes, heavy metals, organic chemicals—are released when we sweat. Types of heat—dry or humid—are discussed, as are the best materials and heating system to incorporate into a sauna chamber if you decide to build one. While she doesn't give construction plans, she provides photos and includes details in her extensive resources section.

Not everyone should take a sauna, though, and Dr Sylver summarises the medical conditions (e.g., some cardiovascular problems) which are contraindicated; she suggests readers check with a sauna-aware medical practitioner before proceeding. In the last chapter, her focus is on detox programs, some of which are used by doctors in the enviro-medical field. She's certainly convinced me of sauna's therapeutic benefits.

BUSHWOMEN: Tales of a Cynical Species

by Laura Flanders

Verso/New Left Books, UK, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-85984-587-8 (342pp hc)
Availability: Verso Books, website
<http://www.versobooks.com>

This eye-opening book from San Francisco-based author, journalist and radio talk show host Laura Flanders shows up the complicity of various women surrounding George W. Bush in an agenda that's set to oppose all sorts of rights—whether for women, minorities, workers or the environment. The American public has been poorly informed on the background, vested interests and rise to power of these women, and Flanders lifts the veil of deceit.

The introduction, "Winning Women", explains the role of these women in bringing a female face to the Republican Party (attracting more women voters) and a Far Right Bush Administration whose brutal policies masquerade under the banner of "compassionate conservatism". Packed with alternative historical context and comment, *Bushwomen* leads with a brief analysis of Florida's Secretary of State Katherine Harris and her part in the 2000 election violations that swept George W. Bush to power.

Chapters are devoted to women who hold cabinet and sub-cabinet positions: National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, GWB's communications director Karen Hughes, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, Environment Protection Agency head Christine Todd Whitman, and Interior Secretary Gale Ann Norton. The final chapter, "Sisters", profiles Dr Lynne Cheney (wife of VP Dick), who headed the right-wing National Endowment for the Humanities from 1986 to 1993 and has played an influential social engineering role; and Laura Bush, whose espousal of Afghani women's rights was a cover that arguably served to justify more bombing.

Most of these high-profile "Bushwomen" have turned their backs on the very liberties that allowed them to get ahead, so there's a strong thread of hypocrisy through their eyebrow-raising stories. The sideline details Flanders gives also make this a must-read before the 2004 US presidential election!





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RETROCOGNITIONS:

An investigation into the memory of past lives and the period between lives by Wagner Alegretti

IAC, Miami, Florida, USA, 2004
ISBN 0-9702131-6-6 (295pp tpb)

Availability: International Academy of Consciousness, <http://www.iacworld.org>

This treatise is the territory of the serious seeker into metaphysical domains. It's the result of many years of study into psychospiritual phenomena, put together by Wagner Alegretti, a dedicated consciousness researcher who follows in the steps of Brazilian doctor/healer/seer Waldo Vieira. Since the 1980s he's been involved in organisations associated with Dr Vieira, most recently the International Academy of Consciousness (see NEXUS 11/03 for "Out-of-body Experience" by the IAC's Sandie Gustus, and also Twilight Zone 6/05).

The central theme of Alegretti's book concerns retrocognition: recollection of past lives on Earth and even on other planets, but also of time spent *between* lives and what all this can reveal about our true soul purpose and evolutionary potential in *this* life. The book focuses not on personal stories but on the theoretical framework that can help elucidate the intradimensional experiences that can be accessed as part of spiritual progress.

Alegretti says that as well as evolutionary benefits such as healing group karma, there are many therapeutic benefits possible from retrocognitive experiences, including remission of/relief from physical illnesses, help in overcoming traumas and phobias, and assistance with relationships. To aid us in self-retrocognitions, he outlines a number of preparatory steps and technical procedures that he recommends be followed.

This is not an easy read, even for those familiar with Western and Eastern descriptions of the psychospiritual realms. The terminologies, originating from Portuguese-language sources, require some getting used to, so the glossary and index are essential. Even so, with chapters titled Holosoma, Consciential Energy, Existential Seriality and Extraphysical Society, readers may feel challenged. This material is comprehensive and insightful and expands our understanding of the myriad layers of consciousness.

(Note that Alegretti and his IAC colleague Nanci Trivellato are speakers at the NEXUS Conference in Brisbane in September.)

SIGN LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL

by Dr Dale H. Schusterman

The Writers' Collective, Rhode Is., 2003
ISBN 1-932-133-05-4 (270pp hc)

Availability: Website
<http://www.SignLanguageoftheSoul.com>

Many years ago I came across a mind-expanding text on the esoteric science of *mudra*—the use of specific hand and finger positions and gestures to connect with the body's own energy flow—from the Buddhist perspective. To see it displayed in the iconography of Buddhist, Hindu and even Christian traditions was fascinating. Now I'm intrigued to find a healing-oriented approach that combines these Eastern gestures with mudras, symbols and words from the Jewish mystical tradition—especially the Tree of Life of the Kabbalah.

In *Sign Language of the Soul*, chiropractor and kinesiologist Dr Dale Schusterman reveals key aspects of this wisdom tradition and gives exercises, words and symbols for accessing and activating the pathways of the Tree of Life, the cosmic blueprint.

The mudras have meaning for the nervous system and the consciousness, and the fingers and their parts are associated with particular organs, glands/chakras and systems of the body as well as cosmic principles and elements of nature. Each hand/finger position (illustrated throughout the book and in the appendices) causes a specific stimulus in the nervous system and biochemistry as well as a change or movement in the energy systems that envelop the body. Because body, mind and soul are in fact one, the mudras can also awaken and stimulate different areas of consciousness.

This book will take some study for those unfamiliar with the Kabbalah, but the time taken will be worthwhile for the benefits this system of knowledge and self-healing can provide. Many of the balancing and healing exercises take only minutes to perform yet have profound, long-lasting results, as Dr Schusterman's patients attest in the case studies presented throughout the book.



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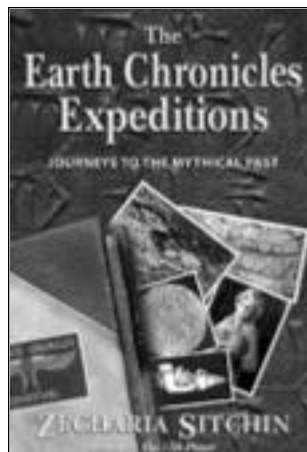
THE EARTH CHRONICLES EXPEDITIONS:

Journeys to the Mythical Past by Zecharia Sitchin

Bear & Company, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-59143-036-4 (243pp hc)
Availability: Inner Traditions website,
<http://www.innertraditions.com>

This new book from author/scholar of the ancient world Zecharia Sitchin is a record of expeditions he's led in the Old and New Worlds to explore ancient myths, examine anomalous artefacts and confirm that the gods of legend did physically visit the Earth. And while his conclusions are not always certain or even correct, due to lack of data on these artefacts, his research trails, fieldwork and ways of thinking about his findings are still trailblazing.

In travels from Mesopotamia and Egypt to Mexico, Sitchin makes connections which suggest either that trans-Atlantic routes were operating 5,000 years ago or that cosmic visitors flew across oceans and seas to impart



knowledge to several cultures at contemporaneous times in antiquity.

Sitchin dates the beginning of the Olmec "mother" civilisation of Mesoamerica to 3000 BC, and suggests the huge carved heads depict the Africans who accompanied the winged god Thoth after he left Egypt around that same time for the New World! Some of the Olmec carvings have uncanny similarities with images from ancient Sumeria that contain astronomical data.

Time travel tunnels under Jerusalem, UFO evidence on top of Mt Sinai, a Sumerian goddess-as-astronaut in the ancient city of Mari, and back-packing spacemen in Mexico are all part of Sitchin's territory. So, too, are ruins of Troy, Crete, Turkey and Syria. Each chapter focuses on a major mystery and includes illustrations, maps and photos (plus a big section of colour plates).

There's much food for thought and inspiration in these glimpses into lost history.

MOON LANDINGS: Did NASA Lie? by Philippe Lheureux

Carnot, USA, 2003 (first published in French as *Lumières sur la lune*, Editions Carnot, Chatou, France)
ISBN 1-59209-041-9 (211pp tpb)
Availability: USA—Carnot USA Books,
<http://www.carnotbooks.com>; UK—
Roundhouse Group, website
<http://www.roundhouse.net>

The controversy over whether NASA landed men on the Moon during the *Apollo* missions continues to this day. In *Moon Landings*, French computer specialist Philippe Lheureux presents more than 100 NASA photographs of these lunar missions containing anomalies and inconsistencies, and draws on the input of astronomers, photographers and other specialists to try to explain these discrepancies. After analysis, in most cases the unexplained elements remain: such as anomalous shadows, reflections and lighting; lack of dust on the lunar module's landing pads (when *Apollo 11* astronauts noted the landing had stirred up a lot of dust); and seemingly impossible bootprints and tyre tracks on the lunar surface.

Lheureux presents several hypotheses about the photos: e.g., that they are real; they were touched up for PR purposes; they were redone in the studio because the originals were somehow spoiled in the first mission; they were faked in a top-secret base in Arizona, and the astronauts only orbited and did not land on the Moon; and that NASA could not reveal what the astronauts saw (i.e., the Moon already colonised by ETs). These hypotheses need more back-up evidence, but Lheureux has no hesitation in stating his preferred versions. However, he leaves it up to readers to draw their own conclusions and do their own research.

The UFO question is given some space, starting with an alleged ham radio recording of Armstrong and Aldrin talking to Houston about the "visitors" and "spaceships" they saw shortly after they "landed" on the Moon. There's also discussion of NASA's strange emblem for the *Apollo* missions, featuring a rocketship leaving Earth and passing in front of the constellation Orion before landing on the Moon. Also discussed are transient lunar phenomena, seen by telescope long before the *Apollo* missions, which could be natural events or perhaps the result of ET activity. Finally, we're shown anomalous features on the lunar surface that are suggestive of artificial creation (some craters are shaped like triangles and polygons) and even the presence of ET military bases!

Maybe we'll get to the bottom of these mysteries one day. Meantime, scientists should not dismiss these anomalies but investigate them with an open mind.



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THE EMERALD MODEM

by Richard Leviton

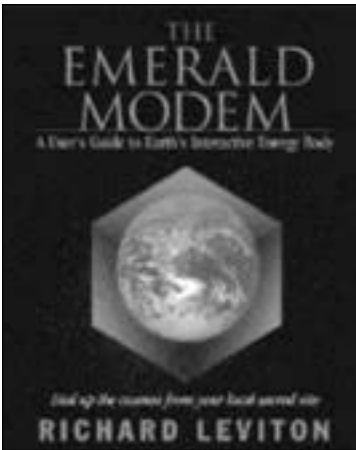
Hampton Roads, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-57174-245-X (592pp tpb)

Availability: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, <http://www.hrpub.com>

In *The Galaxy on Earth* (reviewed in 10/03), visionary author Richard Leviton introduced us to sacred sites and landscape features around the globe within the framework of a metaphysical matrix. In *The Emerald Modem*, he reveals more specifics about the Earth's interactive energy body and how we are inherently linked to it and the cosmos, even if we don't realise it.

Apparently the planet is designed to be interactive, even to require us to interact with it, and Leviton has identified at least 85 different features of the Earth's energy body which he says are the Earth's subtle "organs" and can serve as instruments for raising human consciousness.



To Leviton, the world's sacred landscapes are teeming with geomythic features, meaning that the myth, a real event, actually happened at the site. When seen through clairvoyant eyes, the landscape, the mythological realms and the cosmos are dynamically present and linked via a universal energy code.

The planetary structure can be seen as an etheric geometric crystal with energy pathways and sacred sites at intersections. These serve as access points, akin to Chinese acupuncture points or even an Internet computer modem, where we can plug into the power of the Earth's energy grid—and we can do so because we are designed according to the cosmic energy matrix. Leviton suggests we need to reestablish our link so we can liberate the original Light-bearer, Lucifer, turn on the global Emerald modem and tune into the galaxy.

This highly esoteric book is also a journey through some of the world's great mythologies and systems of knowledge, including Greek, Egyptian, Arthurian, Kabbalistic and

Vedic. Leviton gives keys and meditations for tapping into the Earth's power and deepening our link with the planet and her mythical dimensions at these sacred places. We can even learn how to plug in without physically having to be at the sites! This book is definitely in the "out there" category, yet is firmly centred "in here", in the heart.

EXOPOLITICS: Political Implications of the Extraterrestrial Presence

by Michael E. Salla, PhD

Dandelion Books, Tempe, AZ, 2004

ISBN 1-893302-56-3 (268pp tpb)

Availability: Dandelion Books, website

<http://www.dandelionbooks.net>

The extraterrestrial presence in all its forms is with us, so information about it should be publicly disclosed and its political and social ramifications openly discussed. So argues Michael E. Salla, PhD, researcher in residence at the American University's Center for Global Peace, in *Exopolitics*. This former Assistant Professor in the university's School of International Service has gone out on a limb despite the negative reactions from his academic peers to his thesis on ET presence on this planet.

With a background in international politics, policy-making and conflict resolution, Dr Salla posits that the existence and influence of ETs is at the core of international and domestic conflict, yet this is completely overlooked by conventional policy-makers, who thus make decisions based on false premises. It's time for 70 years of official non-disclosure, disinformation, intimidation and tampering with evidence to be overturned—and the study of exopolitics is relevant for how we'll cope with the revelations.

Dr Salla discusses the history of the UFO/ET cover-up, particularly in the USA, as well as the various "conspiracy theories" that abound and present a challenge to policy-makers and politicians. He delves into the legacy of Nazi Germany and its links with ETs and subterranean civilisations, suggesting that the Nazis during WWII set up secret bases in Antarctica and South America—bases which still exist!

He draws on the testimony of insider whistleblowers, several of whom have worked and/or communicated telepathically with aliens. Many of the names will be familiar from the pages of NEXUS. In fact, regular readers may remember Dr Salla's article on the alleged Iraqi Stargate, published in NEXUS 10/03. In his book, he looks further into the search for ancient ET/UFO technology as a prime motivation for the US-led war on Iraq.

We need to prepare for open interaction with ETs, and Dr Salla argues for having policies to facilitate this new openness.

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VIDEOS

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

EXPRESSIONS OF ET CONTACT: A Visual Blueprint? (Revised 2003 Edn)

Produced by Bradley De Niese; directed by Mary Rodwell, RN, Australia, 2003
Format/running time: all formats, 52mins

EXPRESSIONS OF ET CONTACT: A Communication & Healing Blueprint?

Produced by Bradley De Niese; directed and narrated by Mary Rodwell, RN, 2004
Format/running time: all formats, 81mins

Prices: \$35.00 each (includes GST + postage in Australia; for overseas prices see website, <http://www.maryrodwell.com>)

Availability: Mary Rodwell, 33 Watsonia Road, Gooseberry Hill, WA 6076, Australia, tel/fax +61 (0)8 9454 3702; or try the nearest NEXUS Office

Steering a path through the minefield of UFO "politics" (or beliefs, should I say), is never easy if you want to stay friends with all the various factions. In the "abduction" field alone, there are those still angry at the idea that ETs abduct and experiment upon us without consent. This anger, I notice, tends to colour their views of the experience and is based upon the feeling of being powerless in these situations.

However, there is another, more broad-minded, viewpoint where the experiencer or abductee (eventually) handles the situation without trauma, feels more able to "control" the experience, and often ends up receiving practical information. One of the interesting aspects of those in this category is that two-way communication of a less-impeded nature can often occur. This is something that seems to result over time, especially for those whose experience was a rude interruption to reality. However, there are those who have been interacting with other beings/aliens/ETs since birth (maybe even before?), as you will see on these videos. These people don't necessarily have the trauma and, accordingly, they are able to receive and convey some remarkable information.

These *Expressions of ET Contact* videos are two of the most amazing documentaries you will ever watch. I don't count myself as being a "sensitive" person at all, but I can assure you that I felt things "shifting inside of me" as I watched the videos. In fact, at least 15 minutes of one video that I watched I don't remember a thing about!

I am sure viewers will also be surprised at the large number and variety of different life-forms visiting and interacting with us. It

becomes clear that as contact between "us" and "them" progresses, more and more information is being transmitted.

Amongst the many people featured by Mary Rodwell in these documentaries, most are currently of the opinion that there are many life-forms "out there" that are trying to assist humanity—now, more than ever. This assistance can take many forms; however, it is obvious that most of the assistance is via information packets transmitted to "us". It is up to us to decide what to do with the information. Some use it for healing, as in the example of Adrian Dvir, the Israeli scientist working with an ET medical team (see *Twilight Zone*, NEXUS 11/02, and book review in 10/06); others receive technical or mathematical information that is way above their personal understanding.



Yet obviously it is still early days in the "getting to know you" process, so a lot of the information relayed to humans is still very basic, i.e., what "they" look like, what "they" are like, and how our "reality" is but one of zillions of valid but different realities.

The interviews are *most* interesting and compelling. And the artwork "does things" to you when you look at it. The paintings of the ETs or aliens ("beings" is probably the better word) are just rivetting. One gets the "feeling" of what the being is "like" just by looking at these paintings—a result of the extra information packets transmitted to the artist, perhaps? The accompanying music is very well selected/inspired to suit the amazing artwork and graphics.

These videos are definitely not for conspiracy buffs. No smoking guns, nothing to determine goodies from baddies or who their New World Order contacts are, and angry anti-shapeshifters may also come away disappointed. Instead, these videos are more in the category of "spiritual awakening", but this is a *result* of the content and (probably) not the intention of the producers.

Highly recommended viewing!



REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

BOWMBOI

by Rokia Traoré

Tama Records, Australia, 2003 (60mins)
Distributors: **Aust/NZ**—MRA Entertainment, tel +61 (0)7 3849 6020; **UK**—Indigo Records, website <http://www.rokiatraore.net>

The country of Mali has produced some wonderful artists, and Rokia Traoré is no exception. Her voice is rich in the spell-binding sound of an artist who has mastered her field. With *Bowmboi*, her third album, she won the Critics Award for 2003 Album of the Year in the BBC Radio 3 World Music Awards. Rokia uses traditional instruments and approaches to carry her strikingly original songs. The words are full of messages of hope and comment on the human condition. A mesmerising voice with an amazing range, touching the heart.

WORLD REGGAE

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2004 (54mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo, tel 1888 7888 8629, website <http://www.putumayo.com>

No self-respecting record collection would be complete without CDs of the relaxed, rhythmic music of reggae. And if you thought reggae was only found in Jamaica, think again! Putumayo has released a collection of offerings from reggae bands around the world with this new album. It includes groups from France, India, Algeria, Brazil, Nigeria, UK, Ivory Coast and Cameroon. The irresistible, rocky sounds of swaying music and lyrics of social commentary make this a must.

TAIKO TO TABLA

by Joji Hirota and Pete Lockett

Arc Music Productions, East Grinstead, West Sussex, UK, 2004 (58mins)
Distributors: **UK**—Arc Music, tel +44 (0)1342 328567, website <http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

Pete Lockett is one of the more versatile percussionists in Europe, having worked and toured with dozens of top bands. His background in percussion from the Indian, Brazilian, Cuban, African and Celtic traditions gives him diverse skills. Joji Hirota, whose talents are in Japanese percussion and shakuhachi, has played at various WOMAD festivals over the years. Together the two of them produce and play an amazing array of

percussion instruments in a wonderful fusion of world music. A memorable album of intricate percussion.

INCENDIO

by Incendio

New World Music, USA, 2003 (51mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522; **UK**—New World Music, tel +44 (0)1986 781682; **USA**—New World Music, tel (303) 415 1040, <http://www.newworldmusic.com>

Passion and fire are at the heart of Spanish guitar, and this self-titled album from Incendio means "fire" in Spanish. The sounds of up-tempo Spanish guitar come from Jim Stubblefield with Jean-Pierre Durand and Liza Carbe, who also plays bass and synthesiser. Liza and Jean-Pierre also produce and engineer the album. This is very modern Spanish with some fast flamenco as well as songs of dreamy, romantic Spain. Charlie Bisharal does marvellous violin on two tracks. If you enjoy good, foot-stomping Spanish music, you'll love tapping your heels to *Incendio*.

COMFORT ZONE

by Ian Cameron Smith

Rhythmist Productions, Harbord, NSW, Australia, 2004 (61mins)
Distributor: Rhythmist Productions, tel +61 (0)2 9939 6517, website <http://www.iancameronsmith.com.au>

Ian Cameron Smith is back with another album and has made the leap into a newer field for him: a smooth jazz guitar sound and a touch of blues mixed with his own signature, liquid grooves. There's some very relaxed piano courtesy of Yen Wyndancer and cool sax by Blaine Whittaker and Macdonald Hamilton. Ian's guitar work is very laid-back, and his album would find its perfect niche on a cosy evening with good wine or for a quiet party with friends. Thoroughly recommended.

